

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 SAB-02

L-03 DODE-00 SIG-01 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

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DRAFTED BY ARA/PAN:RRWYROUGH/JPBECKER:ZC

APPROVED BY ARA:CBRAY

S/AB:EBUNKER

S/AB:SMLINOWITZ

ARA/PAN:SMBELL

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INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

GOV PANCANAL PRIORITY

USCINCSO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 071673

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PN

SUBJECT: U.S.-PANAMA TREATY NEGOTIATIONS: MEETING WITH

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PRESIDENTS OF VENEZUELA AND COLOMBIA

REFERENCE: STATE 27594

1. AMBASSADORS BUNKER AND LINOWITZ BRIEFED VENEZUELAN
PRESIDENT PEREZ IN CARACAS MARCH 24 AND COLOMBIAN PRESIDENT
LOPEZ-MICHELSSEN IN BOGOTA MARCH 25 ON THE STATUS OF THE

NEGOTIATIONS.

2. THE PURPOSE OF THE BRIEFING WAS THREEFOLD:

-- TO EXPLAIN THE ADMINISTRATION'S POLICY AND APPROACH;

-- TO PROVIDE A UNITED STATES PERSPECTIVE ON THE NEGOTIATIONS TO TWO PRESIDENTS WHO HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN EXPOSED ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY TO PANAMA'S VIEW;
AND

-- TO REVIEW THE ISSUES TO THE DEGREE THAT EACH PRESIDENT DESIRED.

3. THE AMBASSADORS MADE SEVERAL GENERAL POINTS:

-- A NEW CANAL TREATY IS A FOREIGN POLICY PRIORITY OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION;

-- THE UNITED STATES IS PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE REASONABLE TERMS, BUT NOT TO SACRIFICE ITS CONTINUING INTEREST IN THE CANAL'S SECURE AND EFFICIENT OPERATION.

-- PANAMA MUST DECIDE WHETHER IT PREFERS A RATIFIABLE TREATY OR A CONTINUING CANAL PROBLEM.

-- IF PANAMA WERE TO CHOOSE TO HOLD TO ITS UNREALISTIC DEMANDS, THE UNITED STATES WOULD NOT BE ASHAMED
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FOR THE WORLD TO KNOW OF ITS CURRENT POSITION.

4. THE TWO PRESIDENTS:

-- DISPLAYED CONSIDERABLE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE DETAILS OF THE NEGOTIATION (PRESUMABLY LEARNED FROM THEIR REGULAR MEETINGS WITH TORRIJOS);

-- SPOKE FAVORABLY ABOUT THE "REASONABLENESS" OF OUR POSITION, BUT SUGGESTED THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE BLAMED FOR ANY TREATY BREAKDOWN.

-- COMMENTED THAT OUR CANAL POSTURE EVIDENCES THE GOOD INTENTIONS OF THIS ADMINISTRATION WITH RESPECT TO THE HEMISPHERE AS A WHOLE;

-- EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING OF THE NEED TO PROVIDE FOR OUR CONTINUING SECURITY INTEREST IN THE CANAL'S NEUTRALITY AFTER THE NEW TREATY'S EXPIRATION BUT

CAUTIONED THAT TORRIJOS CANNOT APPEAR TO AGREE IN
ADVANCE TO UNITED STATES POST-TREATY INTERVENTION;

-- OFFERED TO DEFINE INFORMALLY A POSSIBLE ACCOMMO-
DATION OF UNITED STATES AND PANAMANIAN NEEDS (PEREZ
PROPOSED A JOINT INFORMAL INITIATIVE BY VENEZUELA,
COLOMBIA AND COSTA RICA, WHILE LOPEZ SPOKE OF A SEPARATE
COLOMBIAN EFFORT).

5. FROM THE U.S. POINT OF VIEW, THE BRIEFINGS WERE
USEFUL IN THAT THEY ENABLED THE NEGOTIATORS TO GIVE THE

LATIN AMERICAN LEADERS THE U.S. PERSPECTIVE OF THE NE-
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NEGOTIATORS.

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6. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT AMBASSADORS BUNKER AND
LINOWITZ WILL CONDUCT SIMILAR BRIEFINGS IN SAN JOSE AND
MEXICO CITY IN THE FUTURE.
CHRISTOPHER

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PAGE 01 STATE 071673
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARA-06 /019 R

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DRAFTED BY EUR/WE:JALIMPRECHT:JL
APPROVED BY EUR/WE:EMROWELL
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AMEMBASSY LISBON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 071673

FOL REPEAT CABLE STATE 071673 ACTION AMREP INFO TOKYO
LONDON PARIS ROME OSLO ATHENS MONROVIA USUN GOV PANCANAL
USCINCSO DTD 1 APR.

QUOTE

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CHRISTOPHER

UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Enclosure: n/a
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Expiration:
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From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Secure: OPEN
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TAGS: PFOR, EWWT, OVIP, PN, US, VE, CO, (BUNKER, ELLSWORTH), (LINOWITZ, SOL M),
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